

Projects



Kitbashing Starfisher

Preface

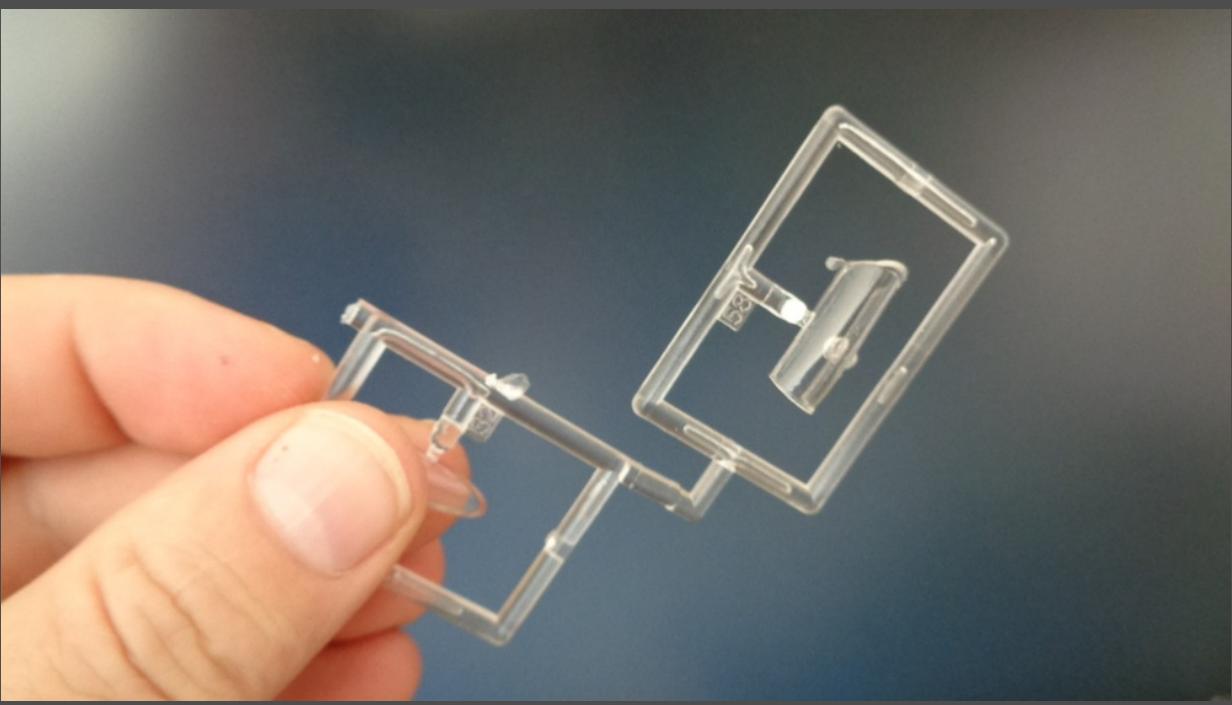
A few days ago I built the [graffiti fence](#) and had a lot of fun. Since I had a little time in between, I built three small models. The Starfishers. Before it comes to misunderstandings, the Starfishers do not collect stars and they are not spaceships. They are drones that work automatically on a water planet. I won't go deeper into the background story behind the Starfishers in this project, but a complete game universe has developed (within a week). I wanted the models to be as realistic as possible, but it should still be science-fiction. My roommate has really put in a lot of ideas, which I will process in a separate article.

Materials

I already had all the materials at home and didn't have to buy anything new. If you go into a good model shop, you should get all the materials. If you don't understand something, check the Internet for videos. There are hundreds of thousands of tutorial videos from the kit and kit bashing section. Also how to paint models correctly etc. I will link some of them here, but not all because otherwise it will be too much.









- Old Brushes
- Old Model Kits
- Glue
- Dark, Middle, and Light Blue Acrylic Color
- Acrylic Marker
- Wood Glue
- Sandpaper
- Small Side Cutter
- Old Plastic Bottle Caps
- Clamps
- Water in a old Glas
- Toothpick
- Pincers
- metre Stick
- Model Water Sticker

Realisation

First I cut three matching sticks out of the transparent plastic. Since my drones fly, I get the *invisible* holders to make it look more realistic. This has become so common in model making and I think the idea is quite good. We glue the finished rods to the underside of our models with superglue.

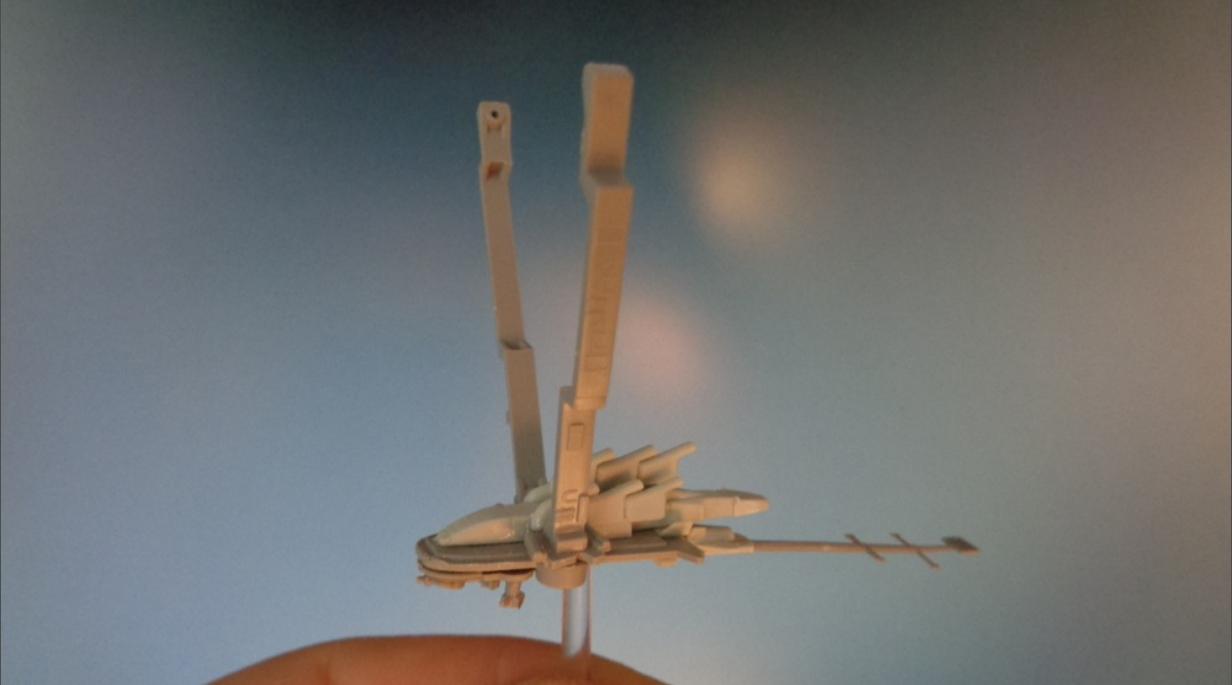




Here you can see the transparent plastic rods at the base of our drones. with the kit bashing there are no rules. You can work as freely and creatively as you want and don't have to let anyone tell you how to build what. If something doesn't work, you can simply start from scratch and discard the old idea. Don't worry about that. Since I wanted to work more realistically, I gave myself some guidelines I wanted to stick to. As I already mentioned above, these are not real spaceships, but drones.

Drones are unmanned aircraft-like machines, sometimes they can be steered by humans. Since these drones belong to an alien culture that lives under water, they are controlled by a weak artificial intelligence. This takes over the tasks independently and adapts itself if necessary. Also these drones should represent the culture of the underwater living beings, therefore these are very long current line forms, since these machines can also be used under water. What I cannot represent in the model are the nets, because the starfishers are used for farming at the water surface.



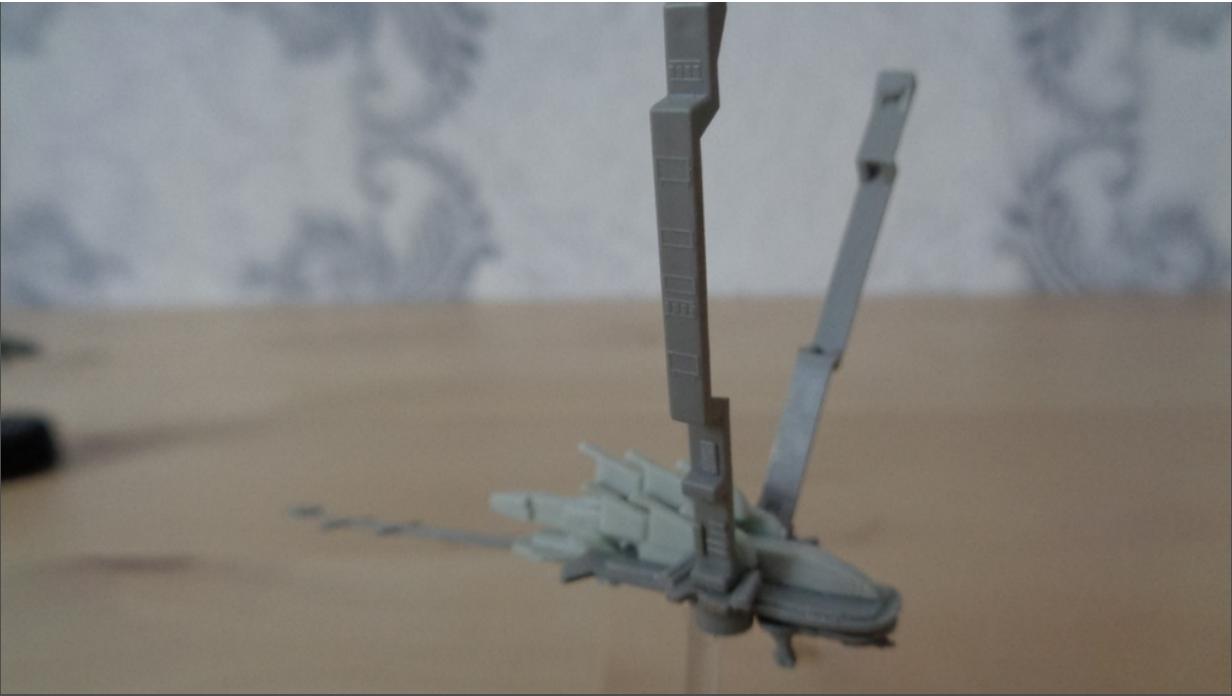


There are bases in model shops that you can buy. Since I didn't want to spend so much money on a rough idea, I simply took plastic caps from drinking bottles. I made the hole for the poles with a nail. It's quite easy and you shouldn't have any problems.



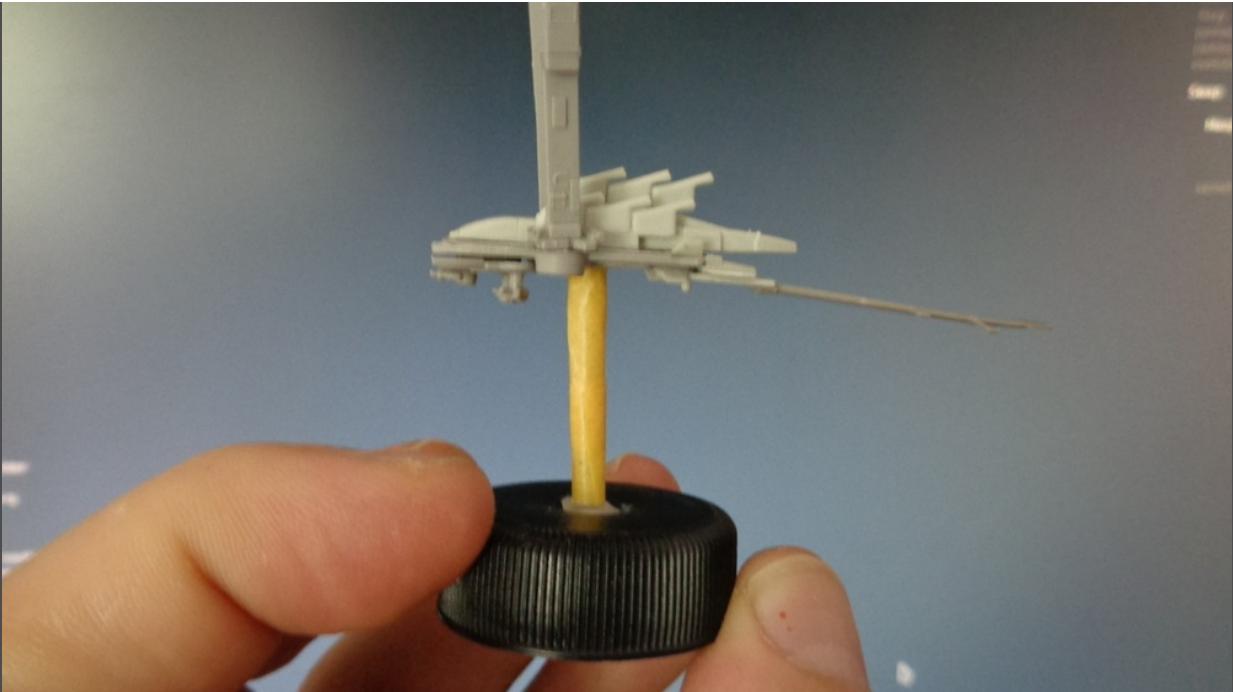
I was really surprised myself how well it all worked. I tried and tested a lot, but in the end it all worked out the way I imagined it would. If you're not so creative, you can also look at other finished models. Since I unfortunately don't know which model kits I have, the model will look different. That's the great thing about the kit bashing. You can never tell in advance how it will look at the end (unless you have made a drawing). As you can see on the photos, I fixed the model to the bases with wood glue.





So that our beautiful transparent poles are not smeared with paint, we stick it with a special adhesive tape. Just ask in the model shop for the yellow masking tape and most will give you the right one. The difference to other tapes is that this tape is very easy to remove after painting.





When painting a model, the first step is always the priming. I use the Citadel chaos black primer because it's the best experience I've had. You can also use white primer if you want your models to be a little lighter. With me they should become dark and have light rust spots etc. So that we get less color on our hands we stick double-sided tape on an old wooden handle. I used a painter's brush that I didn't need anymore. We attach the models to the double-sided tape. Don't shake it too much, otherwise it will fall down. With me it still held quite well and I could remove the models after priming again easily from the wooden stick.

If you use paint from spray cans, it's best to do it with a mask and in the garden or a workshop. The particles of paint can fly very far and if you work in your room, they will land on your bed, laptop or toys. Also be careful not to spray next to a fire, as the fumes from the spray can can ignite easily. It's best to read the safety instructions on the can very carefully. Then nothing should happen. I always do this in my hobby cellar, which I have set up especially for it. We do not throw away the wooden stick, but put it aside in case we can use it again in the future.





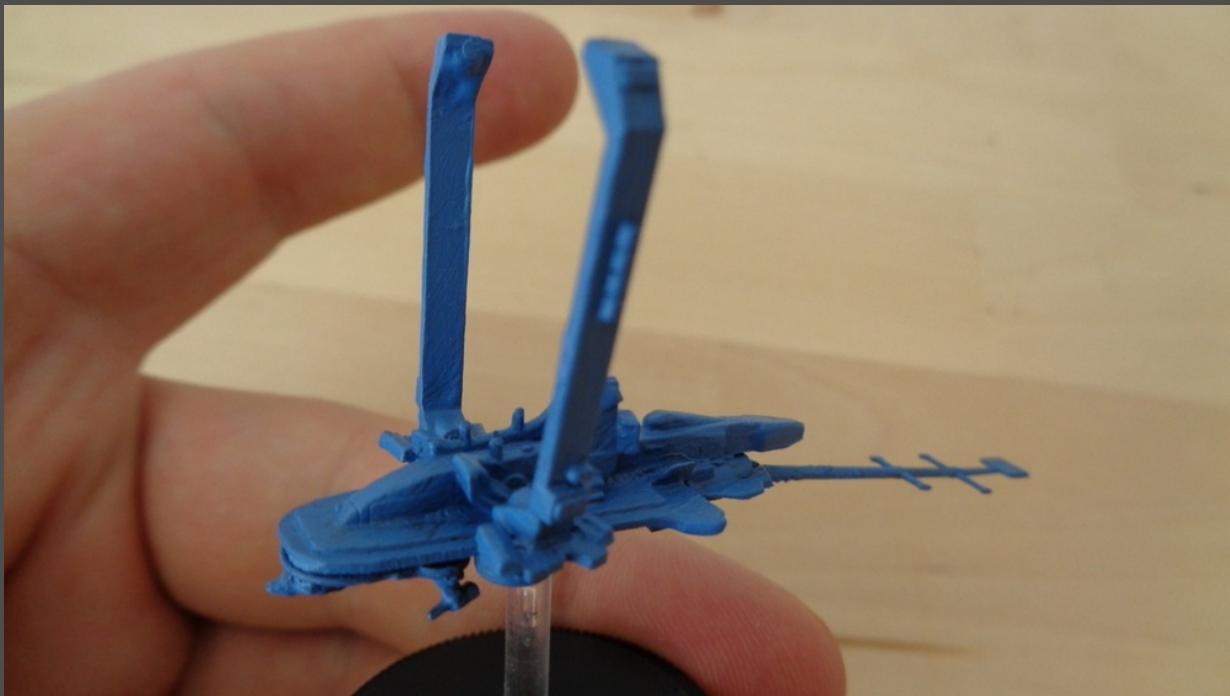
The finished primed models are best left to dry for one or two hours. Then you can remove the masking tape with tweezers and it looks like a real product. So much so the models you can buy in the shop. With a little practice you can build that up a lot.





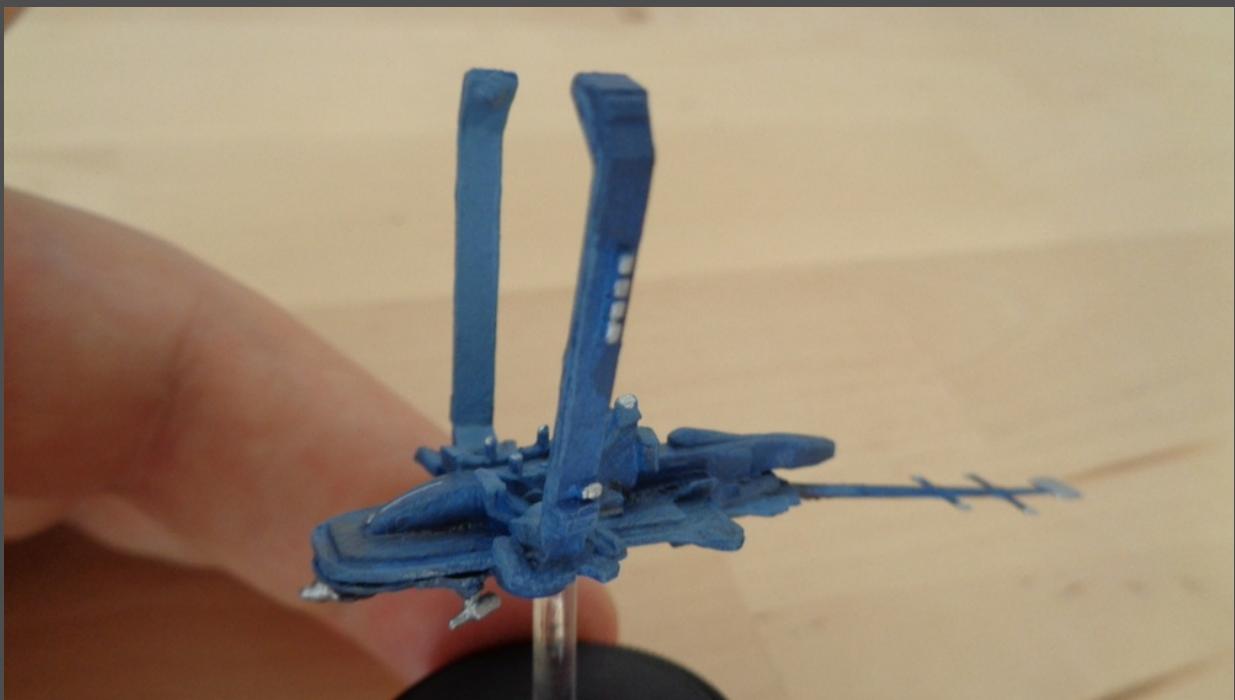
After the priming we can start with the right colors. I have oriented myself [on this video](#) and this should be enough for a beginner. I have worked with a total of seven layers, but it is quite difficult to paint properly in this size if you have never practiced it before. Also the weather was too warm and the paint dried too fast, but what I could not know before. To be honest, I'm not too happy with my first models. There is much more. The application of the water slide-decals worked very well and if [you understood how it works](#), it's super easy. Nevertheless you need some practice again.

On the photo you can see a little black color on the transparent rod. We can clean this with an ear stick and nail polish remover. Take care that you don't take too much nail polish remover like so that the surface of the plastic is attacked a little.





I have put with silver color small details and experimented a little with the stickers around. I also used a very liquid paint that looks like rust with its red tone. Since the drones are almost never cleaned and are always on the way, they are rusted by the water. I still have no idea how exactly this is constructed and what the chemical compositions of the water planet are.



Conclusion

I'm very interested in model building because you can implement a lot of ideas there. I also want to extend the background of the Starfishers. This culture should get its own history, language etc.. I hope that I have not done too much. Unfortunately I am dissatisfied with the models. Ok, I never did that, but it could all look much better. For my demands this is only enough for a very rough idea which has to be developed further. I wouldn't publish something like that for a customer. Nevertheless you can work with it, because it is a 3D model and you can draw it, model it in Blender, etc. I also want to test how I can best represent water and I would also like to do the nets.